

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2164

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AU, LA

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN'S REPORT ON JANUARY 15, 1975,
CABINET MEETING

1. PGNU SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
JANUARY 17 TO REPORT ON THE JANUARY 15 CABINET MEETING HELD AT
LUANG PRABANG AND PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. THAKHEK: THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATED BOUAHOM SOUVANDY,
GOVERNOR OF LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE, AS ACTING GOVERNOR OF
KHAMMOUANE AND AS THE CABINET'S PLENIPOTENTIARY TO NEGOTIATE
WITH THE THAKHEK STRIKERS.

3. EDL: THE CABINET DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THE GOVERNMENT'S
PREVIOUS AGREEMENT WITH THE STRIKERS ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION
OF ELECTRICITE DU LAOS (EDL). INSTEAD, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF EDL IS TO DIRECT EDL'S AFFAIRS AS PRESCRIBED BY ITS CHARTER.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHARTER, BOARD IS TO SELECT A NEW DIRECTOR
GENERAL. THEY CANNOT, HOWEVER, RE-DESIGNATE THE PREVIOUS
DIRECTOR GENERAL AS HE HAS BEEN APPOINTED A CHARGE DE MISSION
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TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. EDL IS TO CONTINUE TO BE UNDER

THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

4. AID RECEPTION: CABINET APPROVED A PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL, PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, THAT THREE MEMBERS OF THE JNPC BE APPOINTED TO THE PGNU COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING AID MATERIAL. THEY ARE VONGSAVAN BOUTSAVAT, NEUTRAL; THIEP SITTHIDET, LPF; AND BOUNTENG INSISIENGMAI, VIENTIANE SIDE.

5. HIPPIES: CABINET DECIDED FOREIGN "HIPPIES" IN LAOS SHOULD BE STRICTLY REGULATED AND THEIR PERMITS TO STAY NOT EXTENDED. CABINET BELIEVES THAT "HIPPIES" OFFEND LAO SENSIBILITIES BY THEIR GENERAL DEPORTMENT AND FAILURE TO BEHAVE ACCORDING TO LAO CUSTOM. LAO EMBASSIES ABROAD WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO DISCOURAGE "HIPPIES" FROM TRAVELING TO LAOS.

6. AUSTRALIAN TRIP: IN THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD, OUDAY WAS ASKED WHETHER THE "GOODWILL DELEGATION" LED BY SOTH PHETRASY HAD CANCELLED ITS TRIP TO AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF THE DEAN AND SHARMAN AFFAIR. OUDAY REPLIED THAT SINCE IT WAS NOW SUMMER IN AUSTRALIA AND MOST HIGH OFFICIALS WERE ON VACATION, THE CABINET DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS A GOOD TIME FOR SUCH A VISIT. HE HAD "NO COMMENT" ON WHETHER DEAN/SHARMAN CASE HAD AFFECTED THE DECISION.

7. SOUVANNA PHOUMA: IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, OUDAY SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY.

18. 18 POINTS: REPLYING TO A FINAL QUESTION, OUDAY STATED THAT THE 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM WOULD BE PROMULGATED NEXT WEEK.
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